

MINUTES

P-16 Council

June 11, 2001

The P-16 Council convened this meeting on June 11, 2001, at the Kentucky Department of Education, State Board Room, Frankfort, Kentucky.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Gordon Davies, Carol Gabbard, Gail Henson, Susan Leib, Shirley Menendez, and Gene Wilhoit. (*Staff present: Lois Adams-Rodgers and Dianne Bazell*)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Shirley Menendez (*acting chair*) moved that the March 30, 2001, minutes be approved. They were approved by acclamation.

LITERACY AND MATHEMATICS ALIGNMENT TEAMS' RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council on Postsecondary Education accepted the Literacy and Mathematics Alignment Teams' Recommendations at their May meeting and passed a resolution commending the P-16 alignment teams and their respective chairs. Gene Wilhoit reported that the Kentucky Board of Education's Learning Support/Learning Results Committee accepted the alignment teams' recommendations. The committee charged KDE staff to develop a framework showing the implications of the recommendations for the August KBE meeting. KDE staff will also solicit input from the commissioner's advisory groups for the August KBE meeting. Susan Leib reported that these recommendations are on next month's Education Professional Standards Board retreat agenda.

Carol Gabbard requested a continual update on the implementation of the Literacy and Mathematics Alignment Teams' Recommendations.

COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION'S ACTION AGENDA ALLOCATIONS FOR TEACHER QUALITY

Gordon Davies reported that the 2000 General Assembly recommended that \$4 million of the Action Agenda Trust Fund be spent on teacher quality. The EPSB certified eligibility and the CPE approved and funded program proposals from Eastern Kentucky University, Morehead State University, Murray State University, and Western Kentucky University; and \$3.4 million was identified by these universities for teacher quality initiatives. Northern Kentucky University and Kentucky State University did not ask for money from their action agenda for teacher quality but committed to allocate more than \$1 million for teacher quality improvements. Gene Wilhoit noted the remarkable increase in engagement of the postsecondary institutions in this area. Gordon Davies indicated that CPE is delighted to work in partnership with EPSB and the Virtual University to deliver alternative certification.

*RIGOROUS HIGH
SCHOOL
CURRICULUM FOR
ALL: NATIONAL AND
LOCAL
PERSPECTIVES*

National Perspective

Kati Haycock, Executive Director of The Education Trust, addressed the role of high school curriculum by presenting what the Ed Trust learned from the last six months of taking a careful look at high school level achievements in the United States and what the research reveals about how to improve student achievement, including the importance of a rigorous curriculum.

Data over time indicates that our students are exiting high school today with math and science skills that are substantially stronger than their counterparts in the early 1980's. Unfortunately, the opposite is the case in reading and writing; on the whole, our students are exiting today at the level where they were in the early 1980's. After two decades of narrowing the gap between poor and non-poor students and minority and white students, those gaps were largely unchanged or actually widened in 1990. Also, data at the end of high school indicates, in every subject except science, students learned considerably more between grades four and eight than between nine and twelve. Growth that students made during high school declined during the 1990's.

What changes need to be made to modify these trends:

- *Smaller high schools and fewer curricular options.*
- *Teachers meeting high academic standards and having a solid grounding in the subjects they teach.*
- *Clear goals set for high schools with curriculum attached to them.*
 - More rigorous curriculum for all middle and high school students to better their performance on tests.*
 - High expectations placed on all students.*
 - Identification of skills and knowledge young people need to succeed in college.*
 - Agreement among colleges and universities on what is necessary to begin credit-level work.*
 - Adoption of the college-preparatory curriculum as the default curriculum so that students will automatically be preparing for college unless student, parents, and school agree that another curriculum is better for the student.*
 - Clarity about what kinds of supports students and teachers need if requirements are made more rigorous.*

The Power Point presentation has been posted on the Web site.

STATE GEAR UP GRANT

Yvonne Lovell, Director of GEAR UP Kentucky, provided an update. GEAR UP is spread across eight regions with eight coordinating institutions and 36 cooperating schools. The 36 schools represent 5,512 students - that is approximately 2,000 more than last year's projection. Thirty of the schools have academic indexes lower than the state average, and the others rank higher than the state average. There are 14 non-school partners including the Prichard Committee. The grants have been distributed to each region and the Memoranda of Agreement (MOA's) have been executed. The project is about changing the way we educate middle school students by assuming that all will be college-bound. It provides resources to work with low-income students to assure they take rigorous courses, study hard, are made aware of college opportunities, and are provided resources for college.

GEAR UP activities are sustained by:

- Creation of a toolbox or collection of college planning materials that can be used long after the grant funds are gone.
- Training for parents who will work with schools to implement program activities.
- Development for a learning community of resources and on-line Web-based hosted environment where teachers will catalog, have lesson plans, and participate in threaded discussions; and
- Support from mentors and school personnel making home visits to talk with parents regarding academic plans for their children.

Challenges include:

- Resisting the desire to start activities without reflection and planning.
- Finding adequate time to plan, while getting a large new program off the ground and moving forward.

A partnership building and design institute for GEAR UP Kentucky partners is scheduled for July 16-17, 2001, at the University Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Gene Wilhoit commented that every student involved in the GEAR UP Program should be required to take at least pre-Algebra and be provided an aggressive counseling program for their parents and them. GEAR UP Kentucky should also provide an opportunity to fully implement the Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) for students in these schools.

*LOCAL P-16
COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT*

Dianne M. Bazell reported there is considerable planning taking place, a lot of active groups, and a number of local councils being planned.

Susan Leib and Lois Adams-Rodgers will represent the other agencies looking at these proposals. The process has been kept simple. The Council on Postsecondary Education will be providing money and guidance. Fayette County has expressed an interest in forming a local P-16 Council.

Once these local P-16 Councils are funded, Carol Gabbard requested a line description of their focuses.

*LEGISLATIVE
COMMITTEES*

Bill Swinford from the Council on Postsecondary Education reported that four subcommittees had been established by the legislature to study several issues. The Subcommittee on Advanced Placement was discussing dual enrollment and other general issues surrounding the last two years of high school and the first two years of college. Some concerns raised by legislators are that only two or three postsecondary institutions in Kentucky are offering dual enrollment opportunities, that there isn't a statewide standard for what advanced placement courses should look like, that AP courses are not available to all students, and the exam passage rates in Kentucky are not as high as in other states.

Gene Wilhoit reported that the other committees were in the data gathering stages and waiting for a meeting date. The Committee on Vocational Education will address the multiple paths for career and technical education that are available in Kentucky including course offerings, expectations, and articulation between and among them.

*GOVERNOR'S
LITERACY SUMMIT*

The Governor's Literacy Summit is scheduled for June 12, 2001, in Louisville. The summit will include participants from early childhood, adult education, K-12, postsecondary, private agencies, and the public who have literacy as part of their agendas and provide an opportunity for them to come together to focus their priorities and resources on eliminating illiteracy in the state. The Prichard Committee will deliver information on the state of literacy in Kentucky. A Literacy Partnership meeting will be held the following day to debrief to determine what can be done within the next six months to a year to address this issue.

Carol Gabbard requested copies of any of the presentations from the summit. Dianne M. Bazell indicated that information would be posted on the Literacy Partnership's Web site, and she will provide that Web site address to the P-16 Council.

*SUMMER NASH
MEETING*

Lois Adams-Rodgers reported that Jim Applegate and Dianne M. Bazell from the CPE, Carol Gabbard of the KBE, Karen Adams from Western Kentucky University, Carolyn O'Daniel from the KCTCS, and Marilyn Troupe from the EPSB would be attending the Summer National Associate of System Heads (NASH) meeting in July. This meeting is sponsored by The Education Trust and will provide Kentucky an opportunity to learn important policy lessons from other states' experiences and to provide leadership on P-16 issues for other states.

*COUNSELOR'S
INSTITUTE*

Lois Adams-Rodgers reported that Dr. Pat Martin from The Education Trust is working with the P-16 initiative on a Counselor's Institute scheduled July 16-18, 2001, in Louisville. P-16 Council members are invited to attend and will be sent a specific agenda when available. This will begin discussions on the counselor's role in student achievement.

*ELECTION OF NEW
CHAIR*

Gail Henson nominated Carol Gabbard as the new chair of the P-16 Council. The motion was seconded and passed with no opposition.

The Kentucky Board of Education elected Paul L. Whalen for a three-year term to replace Sam Robinson on the P-16 Council.

*FUTURE P-16
MEETING DATES*

September 21, 2001, and December 11, 2001

The September meeting will be held in the State Board Room, first floor of the Capital Plaza Tower. The December meeting will be held at the CPE offices in Frankfort.

Lois Adams-Rodgers
Deputy Commissioner
Learning and Results Services

Regina Mingua
Executive Secretary

